



## "CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETS"

*Is Published*

Our beautiful new book, "California Indian Baskets," by Ralph and Lisa Shanks is now available. Covering the basketry from Stockton south to San Diego, "California Indian Baskets" has over 175 basketry illustrations in full color printed on fine paper. This large format 168 page book has fascinating detailed text, many new anthropological discoveries and covers over half the state's native cultures. The basketry of the Chumash, Yokuts, Cahuilla, Kumeyaay, Salinan, Panamint, Paiute and many others are covered.

"California Indian Baskets" is the companion book to "Indian Baskets of Central California," another Costano Books/MAPOM publication. This 176 page book is also written by Ralph and Lisa. It has nearly 200 full color illustrations and covers basketry of the San Francisco Bay Area and east to the crest of the Sierras. The basketry of the Coast Miwok, Sierra Miwok, Pomo, Ohlone, Yuki, Wappo, Patwin and more are presented.

Together the two books cover the basketry of all of California except the northern-most portion. Both books can be ordered from MAPOM by sending a check to: MAPOM, P.O. Box 481, Novato, CA 94948. "California Indian Baskets" is \$40 and "Indian Baskets of Central California" is \$45, which includes tax and shipping. Copies can be autographed upon request.

### CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETS

San Diego to Santa Barbara and Beyond  
to the San Joaquin Valley, Mountains and Deserts



Ralph Shanks • Lisa Woo Shanks, Editor

## MAPOM *Annual Appeal*

Included in this issue is the Annual Appeal request along with a return envelope. Please donate to MAPOM.

Donors names will be published with deep thanks in the next "Acorn." This is a once a year request that helps MAPOM so much.

## MAPOM President's message

MAPOM goals for 2011 are being set by our Board of Directors and look very promising. We begin our new year by participating in the Marin Show: Art of the Americas at the Marin County Civic Center on February 26-27. We are also looking at new possibilities for presenting MAPOM classes. We hope to repeat our College of Marin program in conjunction with Big Time in the summer. These and other exciting activities will be coming out this year.



I would like to thank our MAPOM board members for dedicated work and wonderful enthusiasm. Perhaps I can share some examples of their work. Gene Buvelot spends many hours as treasurer, but also handles books, staffs events and does editing. Chris Coughlin, our vice president, handles our publicity and other activities. Gene and Chris are both members of the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria and keep MAPOM in close contact with Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo activities.

Fran Jaekle is our secretary and works at many events. Betty Goerke has been especially vital in arranging cooperative projects with the College of Marin. Lisa Woo Shanks does editing and publishing. Gordon Bainbridge manages our website. Janice Cunningham does a range of work including book keeping and class coordination. Kirsten Kvam searches for, and keeps us informed about any interesting projects MAPOM can do; and Gae Canfield writes and offers many important suggestions. We also need to thank John Golda of Point Reyes National Seashore for helping us in work with the park.

Lastly, thanks to all of our members for supporting MAPOM. You are deeply appreciated for the many ways you contribute.

Thank you to all.

~Ralph Shanks, M.A.

## Marin Show: Art of the Americas

The largest and best show of Native American art in the nation will be held Saturday February 26 and Sunday February 27 at the Marin Civic Center and adjacent Embassy Suites hotel in San Rafael. Both antique and contemporary art: basketry, carvings, pottery, beadwork and other arts will be offered for sale. Both Indian and non-Indian dealers will be present. MAPOM will have its booth there with fine books and DVDs for sale.

MAPOM president Ralph Shanks will be speaking at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 26, on California basketry in a beautifully illustrated talk. Ralph's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion by several basket dealers as well. Please consider attending. The main show opens after the talk at 10 a.m. that Saturday and runs until 6 p.m. The Sunday show schedule is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. See you there!



**MIWOK  
ARCHEOLOGICAL  
PRESERVE  
OF  
MARIN**

*The Acorn* is produced and distributed semi-annually by the Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. MAPOM is a volunteer based, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization and welcomes new members and public input. We also encourage members to join our Board of Directors and help our ongoing mission to educate with MAPOM programs such as the California Indian Skills classes, and through our publications.

Annual MAPOM membership fees are \$10 for seniors, full-time students and first-time MAPOM students; \$20 for individuals; and \$25 for families. *The Acorn* is received as a membership benefit. For more information and to join MAPOM, visit our website at [www.mapom.org](http://www.mapom.org), or call (415) 472-3202.

### **MAPOM Board of Directors Officers**

Ralph Shanks, M.A., President  
Chris Coughlin, Vice President  
Frances Jaekle, Secretary  
Gene Buvelot, Treasurer

## Lucy Telles Parker, Basketmaker, and her Remarkable Family



Lucy Parker loves to talk about basket making, but she also loves to talk about her family. Somehow, the two stories are integrated. For throughout Lucy's life, baskets were an integral part of living. In her early months, she and her brothers and sister were raised in cradle baskets. Their mother, Julia, used baskets in her acorn making and cooking. Julia's husband's Grandmother, Lucy Telles (for whom she was named) was a fine basket maker, winning prizes for her work much sought after by collectors. And, of course, her mother, Julia, has won high honors for her basketmaking knowledge and skills.

Lucy remembers, about the age of six, watching her elders gathering sedge, willow, redbud and bracken fern, and she quietly observed the splitting of the willow. There were always coils of drying materials in her home, waiting for accomplished hands to proceed with the weaving. Her father, Ralph Parker, a Miwok-Paiute, had cousin/sisters who were basketmakers. They were Carrie Bethal and Minnie Mike, living at Mono Lake in little shingle houses. While Dad would go deer hunting, Lucy would enjoy hot tea and hot biscuits served in her Aunt's homes for the visiting relatives. These two Mono Lake women were instrumental in teaching Julia Parker basketmaking, along with her grandmother, Lucy Telles.

For Lucy, basketmaking was an ongoing process: forever learning about the making of baskets, which was not only tied in with the

finished product and their everyday uses, but also knowing the seasons and locations for gathering the natural materials from which they were made. The family always did a lot of traveling because willow was best around Bridgeport and was collected in the spring after budding: bark could be more easily removed from the twigs. The family would trade some of their willow for redbud collected by folks living in the foothills of the Sierras. Redbud was best after the first freeze, because then the valued bark would not break when used for intricate twining or coiling.



Yokuts bottleneck treasure basket

When Lucy was young, Julia made a basket intended as a gift for the King of Norway. In return, Lucy, her sister Virginia, and her two brothers were unexpectedly rewarded with new skis. This encouraged their activities in the snow. They also made their own snow shoes and traveled distances in the mountains, being acclimated to high elevations and steep topography. Lucy is a professional, champion skier and all the family are skiers, as well. During the winter months, she is occupied as a ski instructor at the Mammoth Mountain/June Lake Ski resorts. After a hard day at work she gets household chores completed, then comes the time for her own weaving, an essential part of her day.

Lucy lives in Lee Vining. Her mother, Julia, continues to demonstrate basketweaving at the museum in Yosemite. Both women are in high demand, teaching their skills in many places other than Kule Loklo and we feel privileged to have them return to us often, as their schedules are arranged a year in advance. There are now four generations of this family teaching basketweaving, as Lucy's daughter, Ursula also teaches (sometimes also for MAPOM), and her granddaughter, Naomi, aged 17, is a basket weaver, as well.

Article by Gae Canfield



PO Box 481, Novato CA 94948

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MAPOM partnered with the National Park Service to co-sponsor the 30th Annual Big Time Festival at Kule Loklo in Point Reyes, CA again this year. The event was held on July 17th and featured demonstrations in basketry, flint knapping, clamshell bead making, and more. Traditional dancers from the Intertribal Pomo group and Dry Creek Pomo performed.

Photo Credit: Christopher Coughlin